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**Testimony of John Murphy on behalf of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
on S.B. No. 447 AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS**

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and members of the committee. My name is John Murphy and I'm speaking on behalf of the over 20,000 member families of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group against many of the components of S.B. 447, AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS.

The title of the bill speaks to modernizing our telecommunications laws, but to CCAG it seems that we are giving up many of our protections of oversight through PURA and the ability of the Office of Consumer Counsel to fight for what's right for Connecticut's consumers. Providing customer service guides is not a good substitute for tariff filings. Exempting companies from audit requirements, allowing a company to withdraw services with notice to PURA instead of obtaining PURA approval and barring much of state and local regulation of voice over internet protocol services (VOIP) does not serve consumers well.

We strongly oppose the siting of telecommunication towers in watershed land, State Parks and Forests and most land under DEEP control. Watershed lands need to be protected, and people want to enjoy our public lands without the intrusion of towers.

We do agree that you should work out a way with the Department of Consumer Protection in declared emergencies to allow technicians from other states with appropriate training, experience and licensure to work in Connecticut.

We also agree that state property that is not part of any watershed, parks or forests be made available on a nondiscriminatory basis state property for wireless facilities if permitted by either the Siting Council or the State Properties Review Board.

In closing, this bill attempts to do far too much under the guise of "modernization". Please protect Connecticut's watersheds, parks, forests and, most of all, our consumers. Thank you.

**CONNECTICUT CITIZEN ACTION GROUP**

*Putting People First*

